

Fifty-five years ago today, a large group of Civil Rights activists were arrested in Montgomery, Alabama for the boycotting of the city's segregated buses. Among those arrested that day was Rosa Parks, an African-American woman whose refusal to give up her seat to a white person on a segregated Montgomery bus had sparked the bus boycott two months earlier. The boycott lasted 381 days and resulted in segregation on public transportation being banned by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph Abernathy were among those involved in the boycott and arrested on February 22, 1956.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was one of the most monumental stands against segregation during the Civil Rights movement. This social and political protest campaign propelled the movement and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. into the national spotlight. The Montgomery Bus Boycott served as one of the first major victories against racial segregation laws and highlighted the power of nonviolent protests. As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, we must pause on historic days like today to reflect on the events and persons that helped lead our nation towards a more just society.